

REMARKS

In applicant's lock, the latch means (which includes the hook) rotates about an axis defined by shaft 36. Rotation of the latch means from the "locked" position is prevented by the latch rotation preventing member 58, when same is in its rearward position, intersecting the path of movement of the latch means. Member 58 is moved linearly in a direction substantially parallel to the rotational axis of the latch member (defined by shaft 36) between forward and rear positions by rotation of the lock cylinder.

As is explained in the specification, conventional locks of this type can be overcome by inserting a sharp object into the key hole and pushing inwardly toward the rear of the lock housing so as to move the latch rotation preventing member toward the rear of the lock housing, out of the path of the latch. This is possible because the latch rotation preventing member intersects the path of the latch in its forward position.

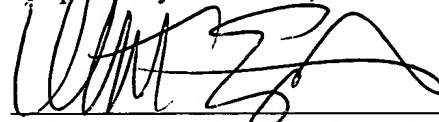
In the reference, arm 64 of member 60 is the structure that intersects the path of the latch and prevents rotation of the latch from the locked position. The latch rotates about an axis defined by screw 80. Member 60 rotates about an axis defined by pin 50. Thus, member 60 rotates about an axis that is perpendicular to the axis of rotation of the latch. If the lock cylinder is compromised, and locking cam 72 rotated out of the way of member 60, member 60 can be rotated out of the path of the latch.

While it is true that cam 72 rotates about an axis parallel to the axis of rotation of the latch, cam 72 is not itself the "latch rotation preventing member" because it does not intersect the path of rotation of the latch. Cam 72 prevents the rotation of member 60, which in turn prevents the rotation of the latch. Cam 72 itself never contacts the latch.

Accordingly, it is clear that the reference does not teach a latch movement preventing member, linearly moveable in the direction parallel to the axis of rotation of the latch, which in its position proximate the rear wall of the housing, intersects the path of movement of the latch means to prevent the latch means from rotating from the locked position. As a result, the reference clearly does not anticipate or render unpatentable the claims, as they have now been presented, to highlight this difference.

Claim 19 has been amended to overcome the indefiniteness objection.

Respectfully submitted,



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